



Docket No. AT9-99-159

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VT
8/18/03
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: **Cook et al.**

Serial No. **09/300,320**

Filed: **April 27, 1999**

For: **Method and Apparatus for
Sending Messages in a Data Processing
System**

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Group Art Unit: **2645**

Examiner: **Hoosain, Allan**

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**Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**ATTENTION: Board of Patent Appeals
and Interferences**

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By:

Amelia C. Nearing
Amelia C. Nearing

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APPELLANT'S BRIEF (37 C.F.R. 1.192)

This brief is in furtherance of the Notice of Appeal, filed in this case on March 27, 2003.

The fees required under § 1.17(c), and any required petition for extension of time for filing this brief and fees therefore, are dealt with in the accompanying TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF.

This brief is transmitted in triplicate. (37 C.F.R. 1.192(a))



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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§ Examiner: **Hoosain, Allan**
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§ Attorney Docket No.: **AT9-99-159**
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Sir:
ENCLOSED HEREWITH:

- Appellant's Brief (in triplicate) (37 C.F.R. 1.192); and
- Our return postcard.

A fee of \$320.00 is required for filing an Appellant's Brief. Please charge this fee to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447. No additional fees are believed to be necessary. If, however, any additional fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

Respectfully submitted,

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REAL PARTIES IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the following party:

International Business Machines Corporation

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

With respect to other appeals or interferences that will directly affect, or be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal, there are no such appeals or interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

Claims in the application are: 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33.

B. STATUS OF ALL THE CLAIMS IN APPLICATION

1. Claims canceled: 8-9 and 23-24
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration but not canceled: None
3. Claims pending: 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33
4. Claims allowed: None
5. Claims rejected: 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33

C. CLAIMS ON APPEAL

The claims on appeal are: 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No unentered amendments are present in the application.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention provides a method and apparatus in a computer for processing voice messages. A voice message is recorded. Responsive to recording of the voice message, an identifying string is automatically inserted into a text message identifying a presence of a voice message. Responsive to recording the voice message, the voice message is automatically appended to a text message to form an appended voice message. The text message is sent with the appended voice message. When a message is received, the text in the received message is parsed to see if an identifying string is present indicating that the received message is a voice message. Responsive to a determination that the received message is a voice message, a graphical user interface including controls for presenting the voice message is displayed.

ISSUES

The issue on appeal is whether claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Logan et al. (US Patent No. 5,721,827) ("*Logan*").

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

The claims on appeal do not stand or fall in a single group, but are grouped into in the following groups for the reasons set forth in the Argument section below:

Claims 1-7, 14-22, 29, and 30 form group A. Claims 32 and 33 form group B. Claims 10, 25, and 31 form group C. Claims 11-13 and 26-28 form group D.

ARGUMENT

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 10-22, 25-30, and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Logan et al. (US Patent No. 5,721,827), hereinafter referred to as “*Logan*.” This rejection is respectfully traversed.

I. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest Automatically Inserting an Indicator into a Text Message (Groups A and B)

With respect to claims 1 and 16, the Office Action states:

As to claims 1,16, with respect to Figures 1 and 5-7, **Logan** teaches a method in a data processing system for processing voice messages, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:

- recording a voice message (Col. 12, lines 24-42);
- responsive to recording of the voice message, automatically inserting an an [sic.] indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message (Col. 12, lines 55-67);
- responsive to recording of the voice message, automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message (Col. 12, line 64 through Col. 15, line 6); and
- sending the text message with the appended voice message (Col. 12, line 64 through Col. 15, line 16).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. *Logan* teaches a system for electronically distributing personalized information. A library of programs is provided to subscribers through a player subsystem. The player is primarily an audio player used to play subscriber audio content. See *Logan*, col. 2, line 67, to col. 10, line 5. The audio player of *Logan* also allows the user to record voice comments.

A cited portion of *Logan* states:

The player **103** responds to the first command, “Accept” indicated at **263**, by temporarily suspending the playback in order to accept a spoken “comment” from the user which is recorded as indicated at **264**. After the conclusion of the comment, control is returned to **261** to test for additional commands before playback is resumed at **235**. As described in more detail later, comments dictated by the user are saved and later uploaded to the host system where they exist as program_segments.

Logan, col. 12, lines 24-32. Furthermore, another cited portion of *Logan* states:

A first command, "Go" indicated at 265, causes the player to make an immediate shift to a different program segment. For example, the spoken voice command "FIVE" can indicate a request to go to a predetermined numbered program segment while the spoken command "NEWS" could switch to the subject announcement segment for news programs. Alternatively, a mouse click on a screen-displayed menu of items, or a push-button on a hand controller connected by an infrared link to the player computer, could similarly be processed as a command to go to a predetermined program segment associated with that command signal. In such cases, the system records the start of the new segment on the log file (seen at 215 in FIG. 2) at 267 and switches the current playback position in the program sequence file 214 to the new setting at 269, and the playback continues at 235.

Logan, col. 12, line 55, to col. 13, line 2. This cited portion of *Logan* fails to teach or suggest appending a voice message to a text message to form an appended voice message, as alleged in the Office Action. To the contrary, the voice comments are recorded for previously stored subscriber audio content. In fact, *Logan* expressly states that the voice comment messages are "uploaded to the host system where they exist as program_segments."

In contradistinction, claim 1 recites:

1. A method in a data processing system for processing voice messages, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:
 - recording a voice message;
 - responsive to recording of the voice message, automatically **inserting an indicator into a text message** indicating a presence of a voice message;
 - responsive to recording the voice message, automatically **appending the voice message to the text message** to form an appended voice message; and
 - sending the text message with the appended voice message. [emphasis added]

Thus, claim 1 recites separate steps of "**inserting** an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message" and "**appending** the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message." *Logan* fails to teach or suggest "responsive to recording of the voice message, **automatically inserting** an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message," as recited in claims 1 and 16.

With respect to the argument that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest appending the voice message to the text message, the Final Office Action states:

Examiner respectfully disagrees. This is because Examiner cited Col. 12, line 64 through Col. 15, line 16. At Col. 14, lines 42-55 Logan teaches recording bookmarks (voice messages) as attachments to email messages (text messages). At Col. 14, line 64 through Col. 15, line 13, Logan also teaches bookmarks and annotations (voice messages) that are attachments to email messages (text messages).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. The cited portions of *Logan* expressly state that voice annotations are stored in “separate files” and “uploaded to the host.” Therefore, *Logan* teaches attaching voice annotations by reference to a separate file, rather than appending a voice message to a text message, as in the present invention.

With respect to the argument that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest automatically inserting an indicator into a text message, the Final Office Action states:

Examiner respectfully disagrees for the same reasons given in (a). In addition, Logan teaches that bookmarks are inserted at predetermined positions (Col. 14, lines 56-64).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. The cited portion of *Logan* expressly states that the user annotates a program segment passage “by records in the usage log file.” *Logan* does not teach or suggest that a bookmark is an indicator “indicating a presence of a voice message” that is inserted **into the text message**, as in the presently claimed invention. *Logan* also fails to teach or suggest **automatically** inserting the indicator **responsive to recording of the voice message**, as recited in representative claim 1.

The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claims 1 and 16 are not anticipated by *Logan*. Claims 16 and 29 recite similar features and are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 1, 16, and 29 are not anticipated by *Logan* and the rejection must be withdrawn.

Since claims 2-7, 17-22, 30, 32, and 33 depend from claims 1, 16, and 29, the same distinctions between *Logan* and the invention recited in claims 1, 16, and 29 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 2-7, 17-22, 30, 32, and 33 recite other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 1-7, 16-22, 29, 30, 32, and 33 is overcome.

With respect to claims 14 and 29, the Office Action states:

As to Claims 14, 29, with respect to Figures 1 and 5-7, **Logan** teaches a messaging system for use in a data processing system, the messaging system comprising:

- a graphical user interface, wherein the graphical user interface provides selections for user input to create and send voice messages (Col. 14, line 64 through Col. 15, line 6); and

- a message processing mechanism, wherein the message processing mechanism has a plurality of modes of operation including:

- a first mode of operation in which the message processing mechanism waits for a user input (Col. 12, lines 16-24);

- a second mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to record a voice message, in which the message processing mechanism stores voice data in a file (Col. 12, lines 24-38);

- a third mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to select a recipient for the voice message, in which the message processing mechanism receives a selection of a recipient for the voice message (Col. 12, lines 32-38); and

- a fourth mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to send the voice message and to a presence of a recipient for the voice message in the text message, appends the file to the text message, and sends the text message to the recipient (Col. 14, line 56 through Col. 15, line 12).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. Claims 14 and 15 recite features similar to those presented in claims 1-7, 16-22, 29, 30, 32, and 33 and are allowable for the same reasons. The cited portion of *Logan* states:

Dictating or keyboarding an annotation at a predetermined position in the bookmarked program segment, the annotation being saved in local storage so that, when the bookmarked program segment is reproduced, it will include the annotation. The bookmarked program segment and the annotation may then be saved as a unit for future reference or forwarded to another person.

Bookmarked program segments, or annotations to bookmarked program segments, may be used in conjunction as an auxiliary audio voice mail and email handling system in which a subscriber's email and voice mail items are organized as topics in the playback session, enabling the subscriber to bookmark particular incoming messages (program segments) for further attention, or to dictate voice mail responses, or responses that can be converted to text form by a human typist or by a voice recognition system. This aspect of the present invention allows the subscriber to review and respond to incoming email and voice mail messages while commuting or traveling to more productively utilize travel time. Voice annotations may be

stored in separate files which are uploaded to the host with the usage file and keyed to the program segment passages which they annotate by records in the usage log file.

Logan, col. 14, line 55, to col. 15, line 14. Again, the Office Action cites seemingly arbitrary portions of the reference with no analysis as to why the teachings of the reference are equivalent to the claim limitations. For example, how are dictating or keyboarding an annotation and bookmarking program segments, voice mails, and emails equivalent to "a fourth mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to send the voice message and to a presence of a recipient for the voice message, in which the message processing mechanism creates a text message, inserts an identifying string, identifies a presence of the voice message in the text message, appends the file to the text message, and sends the text message to the recipient?"

The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claims 14 and 29 are not anticipated by *Logan*. Claims 14, 15, 29, and 30 are not anticipated by *Logan* and the rejection must be withdrawn.

II. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest Inserting the Indicator into a Body of the Text Message (Group B)

Particularly, claims 32 and 33 recite "inserting the indicator into a body of the text message." *Logan* does not teach or suggest inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message. Therefore, it follows that *Logan* also fails to teach inserting a text string **within the body** of the text message, as recited in claims 32 and 33. The reference fails to teach each and every claim limitation. Therefore, claims 32 and 33 are not anticipated by *Logan*.

With respect to the argument that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest inserting the indicator into the body of the text message, the Final Office Action states:

Examiner respectfully disagrees. This is because *Logan* teaches that the bookmarked program segment and the annotation are saved as a unit. Therefore, the indicator is within the body of the email message as argued by Examiner in (a) and (b). At Col. 14, lines 45-52, *Logan* teaches that the bookmark annotations are keyed to program segments by records (text messages) in a log file. See also Col. 14, lines 45-52 and Figure 5.

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. While *Logan* does teach that a program segment and annotation are “saved as a unit,” *Logan* does not teach how this is accomplished. Nowhere in the cited portions, or any other portions, does *Logan* teach or suggest that the indicator is inserted “into a body of the text message,” as recited in claim 32 and 33.

III. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest a First Custom Message of a First Type and a Second Custom Message of a Second Type (Groups C and D)

With respect to claims 10 and 31, the Office Action states:

As to Claims 10, 31, with respect to Figures 1 and 5-7, **Logan** teaches a method in a computer for receiving messages, the method comprising:

- receiving a first text message including a custom message of a first type (Col. 10, lines 11-25);

- parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message (Figure 6, label 435); and

- responsive to the presence of the identifying string and responsive to selection of the text message, identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message (Col. 10, lines 51-55);

- receiving a second text message including a second custom message of a second type (Col. 10, lines 51-55 and Col. 11, lines 8-25);

- parsing the second text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message (Col. 11, lines 26-35 and Figure 6, label 435); and

- responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the second message, identifying the second type and presenting second controls to access the second custom message (Col. 11, lines 26-35 and Col. 17, lines 58-66).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. The cited portion of *Logan* states:

In order to limit access to the downloaded programming materials to the subscriber, the playback utility program executing on the client CPU **105 (FIG. 1)** advantageously begins the session by requesting the entry of a password as indicated at **231**. The entry of this or a different password may also be required for access to the utility programs used to modify the subscriber's personal data, future program selections, and current program selections and sequencing. Similarly, information which might be revealed concerning an individual subscriber by the host server **101** is advantageously password protected.

As with all Internet transactions, the actual data transmissions of information other than publicly available programming may also be encrypted. To this end, the client and server ends of the pathway may exchange public keys to enable encrypted transmission using conventional RSA encryption.

Logan, col. 10, lines 9-26. A cited portion of *Logan* also states:

As indicated at 233, the playback session begins with the presentation of an audio (and/or displayed) menu which allows the user to jump to any program segment within that sequence to start (or resume) playback at 235, or terminate the session at 236.

Logan, col. 10, lines 51-55. Neither the cited portion, nor any other portion, of *Logan* teaches or suggests “receiving a first text message including a first custom message of a first type,” “parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message,” and “responsive to the presence of the identifying string and responsive to selection of the text message, identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message,” as recited in claim 10.

In fact, the Office Action cites seemingly arbitrary portions of the reference with no analysis as to why the features found in *Logan* are equivalent to those recited in the claims. For example, how are password protection and encryption equivalent to receiving a text message including a custom message of a first type? How is an audio menu equivalent to identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message? While item 435 in Fig. 6 does mention the word “parsing,” *Logan* does not teach or suggest **“parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message,”** as recited in claim 10.

With respect to the argument that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest the claim limitations, the Final Office Action states:

This is because the cited passage at Col. 10, lines 11-25 teaches that passwords and encryption enables a subscriber to access and modify future and current program selections. Therefore, the programs which a subscriber receives are custom messages. In addition, the menu which is played or displayed to a subscriber identifies the program selections. Thus, and as discussed above program selections can be emails which have voice annotations. Therefore, Figure 6 teaches the receiving of emails with voice annotations which are parsed for playback.

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. Indeed, *Logan* teaches that data transmissions may be encrypted. However, in *Logan*, each annotation is simply another program segment, rather than a custom message included in a text message. Therefore, *Logan* does not teach or suggest, “responsive to the presence of the identifying string and responsive to selection of the text message, identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message,” as recited in claim 10.

Furthermore, *Logan* fails to teach or suggest receiving two text messages with two custom messages of two different types, parsing the two messages for identifiers, identifying the two different types, and presenting two different controls to access the custom messages. Again, the Office Action cites seemingly arbitrary portions of the reference with no analysis as to why the teachings of the reference are equivalent to the claim limitations. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation; therefore, claims 10 and 25 are not anticipated by *Logan*. Claim 25 recites similar features and is allowable for the same reasons. Claims 10 and 25 are not anticipated by *Logan* and the rejection must be withdrawn.

With respect to the argument that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest receiving two text messages with two custom messages of two different types, the Final Office Action states:

Examiner respectfully disagrees. This is because *Logan* teaches that custom messages can be dictated (voice) or keyed (text) (Col. 14, lines 56-60).

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. While *Logan* appears to teach voice and/or text annotations, Appellant maintains that *Logan* does not teach or suggest the specifically claimed steps of “parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message,” “responsive to the presence of the identifying string and responsive to selection of the text message, identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message,” “parsing the second text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message,” and “responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the second message, identifying the second type and presenting second controls to access the second custom message,” as recited in representative claim 10. *Logan* does not specifically teach parsing a text message to identify the presence of a text annotation and presenting controls to access the text annotation.

Since claims 11-13 and 26-28 depend from claims 10 and 25, respectively, the same distinctions between *Logan* and the invention recited in claim 10 apply for these claims. Additionally, claims 11-13 and 26-28 recite other additional combinations of features not suggested by the reference. Consequently, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 10-13 and 25-28 is overcome.

IV. The Prior Art Fails to Teach or Suggest a First Custom Message Being a Voice Message and a Second Custom Message Being a Stock Trade (Group D)

Particularly, since *Logan* fails to teach a first custom message of a first type and a second custom message of a second type, it follows that *Logan* fails to teach or suggest that the first custom message is a voice message and the second custom message is a stock trade, as specifically recited, in claims 12 and 27.

The Final Office Action states:

In addition, and as taught at Col. 37, lines 26-35, custom messages can be voice messages or stock trades.

Office Action, dated January 15, 2003. Appellant respectfully disagrees. While *Logan* does mention the term “stock quotes,” no portion of *Logan* teaches or suggests a custom message that is a stock “trade.”

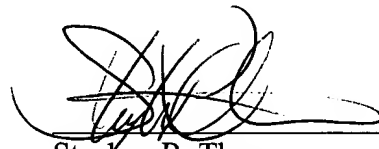
V. The Prior Art Also Fails to Render the Claimed Invention Obvious (Groups A-D)

Furthermore, *Logan* does not teach, suggest, or give any incentive to make the needed changes to reach the presently claimed invention. *Logan* actually teaches away from the presently claimed invention because it teaches storing voice comment messages as program_segments separate from subscriber audio content, as opposed to inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message and appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message as in the presently claimed invention. Absent the Office Action pointing out some teaching or incentive to implement *Logan* with a text message system with custom messages, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be led to modify *Logan* to reach the present invention when the reference is examined as a whole. Absent

some teaching, suggestion, or incentive to modify *Logan* in this manner, the presently claimed invention can be reached only through an improper use of hindsight using the applicant's disclosure as a template to make the necessary changes to reach the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33 is overcome. Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of claims 1-7, 10-22, and 25-33 not be sustained.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen R. Tkacs', is written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX OF CLAIMS

The text of the claims involved in the appeal reads:

1. A method in a data processing system for processing voice messages, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of:
 - recording a voice message;
 - responsive to recording of the voice message, automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;
 - responsive to recording the voice message, automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and
 - sending the text message with the appended voice message.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving the text message to form a received text message;
 - parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator indicating that the received text message is a voice message; and
 - responsive to a presence of the indicator, presenting controls to listen to the voice message.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the received text message is an electronic mail message.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is a text string.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a personal computer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a work station.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system is a personal digital assistant.
10. A method in a computer for receiving messages, the method comprising:
 - receiving a first text message including a first custom message of a first type;
 - parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message;
 - responsive to the presence of the identifying string and responsive to selection of the text message, identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message;
 - receiving a second text message including a second custom message of a second type;
 - parsing the second text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message; and
 - responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the second message, identifying the second type and presenting second controls to access the second custom message.
11. The method of claim 12 wherein the first controls comprise controls for presenting the voice message.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the first custom message is a voice message and the second custom message is a stock trade.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the first controls include a play control, a rewind control, and a fast forward control.

14. A messaging system for use in a data processing system, the messaging system comprising:

a graphical user interface, wherein the graphical user interface provides selections for user input to create and send voice messages; and

a message processing mechanism, wherein the message processing mechanism has a plurality of modes of operation including:

a first mode of operation in which the message processing mechanism waits for a user input;

a second mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to record a voice message, in which the message processing mechanism stores voice data in a file;

a third mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to select a recipient for the voice message, in which the message processing mechanism receives a selection of a recipient for the voice message; and

a fourth mode of operation, responsive to a user input in the first mode of operation to send the voice message and to a presence of a recipient for the voice message, in which the message processing mechanism creates a text message, inserts an identifying string, identifies a presence of the voice message in the text message, appends the file to the text message, and sends the text message to the recipient.

15. The messaging system of claim 14, wherein the message processing mechanism further includes:

a fifth mode of operation in which the message processing mechanism waits for a receipt of a text message;

a sixth mode of operation, responsive to receiving a text message, in which the message processing mechanism parses the text message to determine whether an identifying string identifying a presence of a voice message is present; and

a seventh mode of operation, responsive to a presence of the identifying string, in which the message processing mechanism causes the graphical user interface to display the message as a voice message in a message list.

16. A data processing system for processing voice messages, the data processing system comprising:

recording means for recording a voice message;

inserting means, responsive to recording of the voice message, for automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;

appending means, responsive to recording the voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and

sending means for sending the text message with the appended voice message.

17. The data processing system of claim 16 further comprising:

receiving means for receiving the text message to form a received text message;

parsing means for parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator

indicating that the received text message is a voice message; and

presenting means, responsive to a presence of the indicator, for presenting controls to listen to the voice message.

18. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the received text message is an electronic mail message.

19. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the indicator is a text string.

20. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a personal computer.

21. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a work station.

22. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the data processing system is a personal digital assistant.

25. A data processing system for receiving messages, the data processing system comprising:
first receiving means for receiving a first text message including a first custom message of a first type;

first parsing means for parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message associated with the first text message;

first displaying means, responsive to the presence of an identifying string in the first text message, for identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message;

second receiving means for receiving a second text message including a second custom message of a second type;

second parsing means for parsing the second text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message; and

second interface means, responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the second message, for identifying the second type and presenting second controls to access the second custom message.

26. The data processing system of claim 27 wherein the first controls comprise controls for presenting the voice message.

27. The data processing system of claim 25, wherein the first custom message is a voice message and the second custom message is a stock trade.

28. The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the first controls include a play control, a rewind control, and a fast forward control.

29. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for processing voice messages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions recording a voice message;

second instructions, responsive to recording of the voice message, for automatically inserting an indicator into a text message indicating a presence of a voice message;

third instructions, responsive to recording the voice message, for automatically appending the voice message to the text message to form an appended voice message; and

fourth instructions for sending the text message with the appended voice message.

30. The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:

fifth instructions for receiving the text message to form a received text message;

sixth instructions for parsing the received text message for a presence of an indicator indicating that the received text message is a voice message; and

seventh instructions, responsive to a presence of the indicator, for presenting controls to listen to the voice message.

31. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for receiving voice messages, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a first text message including a first custom message of a first type;

second instructions for parsing the first text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message;

third instructions, responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the first text message, for identifying the first type and presenting first controls to access the first custom message;

fourth instructions for receiving a second text message including a second custom message of a second type;

fifth instructions for parsing the second text message for an identifying string identifying a presence of a custom message; and

sixth instructions for responsive to a presence of an identifying string in the second message, identifying the second type and presenting second controls to access the second custom message.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of automatically inserting an indicator into a text message comprises inserting the indicator into a body of the text message.

33. The data processing system of claim 16, wherein the inserting means comprises means for inserting the indicator into a body of the text message.